

SENATE GENERAL WELFARE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amendment No. 1 to SB2650

Ford J
Signature of Sponsor

FILED

Date _____

Time _____

Clerk _____

Comm. Amdt. _____

AMEND Senate Bill No. 2650

House Bill No. 2400*

By deleting all language after the enacting clause and by substituting instead the following language:

SECTION 1. As used in this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "TANF" means the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program.

(2) "TANF assistance-type services" means the limited scope of activities and services that constitute assistance under federal laws and regulations governing TANF.

(3) "Unspent prior-year TANF funds" means unspent TANF block grant funds that exist from prior federal fiscal years 1997, 1998 and 1999, which are claimable by the state but have not been drawn down by the state.

SECTION 2. The general assembly finds the following:

(1) Substantial amounts of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families ("TANF") block grant funds exist from prior federal fiscal years 1997, 1998, and 1999, which are claimable by the state but have not been drawn down by the state.

(2) Under federal laws and regulations, the unspent prior-year TANF funds must be used solely for a limited scope of activities and services that constitute assistance.

(3) Under federal laws and regulations, current-year TANF funds may be used for a broader scope of activities and services permitted under TANF that may or may not constitute TANF assistance-type services.

(4) The amount of unspent prior-year TANF funds significantly exceeds the amount that reasonably needs to be reserved as a rainy-day fund for future unexpected

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program needs, such as the need to expand assistance to needy families with children in the event of an economic downturn.

(5) The state could accommodate new investments in preventive and remedial programs and services permitted under the goals of TANF.

(6) It is sound fiscal management policy to fund the relatively limited scope of TANF assistance-type services with unspent prior-year TANF funds, thereby freeing up the use of current-year TANF funds to support a broader scope of preventive and remedial programs and services permitted under TANF.

SECTION 3. No later than fifteen (15) days before the time that the department of human services is required to file its TANF ACF-196 report with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the commissioner of human services shall cause copies of such report in its proposed final form to be delivered to the speaker of the senate; the speaker of the house of representatives; the finance, ways and means committee of the senate; the finance, ways and means committee of the house of representatives; the general welfare, health and human resources committee of the senate; the health and human resources committee of the house of representatives; and the children and family affairs committee of the house of representatives. The commissioner shall promptly deliver copies in like manner of any revisions or updates made to any ACF-196 form filed with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. From the membership of the above-referenced committees, the speakers shall appoint an ad hoc committee to promptly review and evaluate the content and substance of such reports and to make recommendations to the governor, the commissioner of finance and administration, the

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commissioner of human services, and the general assembly. Such recommendations shall address, but not be limited to, the following subject matters:

(1) The preferred manner of using unspent TANF funds from previous grant years, including whether to retain such funds in reserve; transfer such funds to the child care development fund or social services block grant fund; increase the level of contracted services; or expand and create innovative services for needy families;

(2) The decisions and criteria for electing to make block grant transfers of TANF funds to the child care development fund or social services block grant fund; and

(3) The process for selecting subrecipients of TANF funds.

SECTION 4. The department of human services shall fund all of the TANF assistance-type services that it delivers with unspent prior-year TANF funds.

SECTION 5. (a) The department of human services shall make a portion of current-year TANF funds available for competitive grants to local community development corporations, federally qualified community health centers, non-profit entities or community-based organizations. Such grants shall be used to fund programs and services designed to meet one or more of the following goals specified under federal law:

(1) To provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;

(2) To end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage;

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(3) To prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing incidence of such pregnancies;

(4) To encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

(b) The programs and services designed to meet these goals shall include, but are not limited to:

(1) Employment related services;

(2) Wage advancement;

(3) Counseling services;

(4) Pregnancy prevention;

(5) After-school and summer recreation activities that provide supervision and developmental services for children and youth while their low income parents work;

(6) Micro enterprise development initiatives;

(7) Non-medical substance abuse services;

(8) Assisting victims of domestic violence, including relocation within or outside of the state where employment and safe housing has been secured; and

(9) Providing responsible fatherhood initiatives that will improve the capacity of low income fathers to provide financial and emotional support for their children.

(c) It is the intent of the general assembly to make the grants under this act available to a broad group of organizations that may or may not have had prior contracts

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with the department. The department shall provide early notification of the availability of the grants to local community development corporations, federally qualified community health centers, non-profit entities and community-based organizations that qualify to provide services authorized by TANF. The department shall distribute funds directly to selected organizations and receipt of the funds under this act shall not be conditioned on the provision of any matching or in-kind contribution.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, title 71, chapter 3, part 1, is amended by adding Sections 1 through 5 of this act as new sections to be appropriately designated.

SECTION 7. Implementation of the provisions of this act shall be subject to funding being provided in the general appropriations act.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.